

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-39 (Canceled)

40. (Original) A method for verifying data integrity communicated between an operator interface and a remote control device, the operator interface and remote control device having associated device numbers, said method comprising:

communicating a signal on a channel between the operator interface and the remote control device, the signal including a device number, channel number, and checksum;  
receiving the signal including the device number, channel number, and checksum;  
verifying the checksum to confirm integrity of the signal;  
determining if the channel and the channel number match; and  
determining if the transmitted device number corresponds to the device number of the remote control device.

41. (Original) The method according to claim 40, further comprising:

determining that data integrity is invalid; and  
utilizing, by the remote control device, a last set of valid data.

42. (Original) The method according to claim 40, further comprising:

determining that data integrity is invalid; and  
disabling the remote control device.

43. (Original) The method according to claim 40, wherein the remote control device is a robot.

44. (Original) The method according to claim 40, wherein the determining of the channel occurs during a robot competition.

45. (Original) The method according to claim 40, wherein each of the device number, channel number, and checksum are transmitted in a single data packet.

46. (Original) A system for determining a channel of communication between an operator interface and a remote control device, the operator interface and remote control device having associated device numbers, said method comprising:

means for assigning the channel to the operator interface;

means for transmitting a signal on a first channel, the signal including a device number, channel number, and checksum;

means for selecting, by the remote control device, a second channel to receive the signal;

means for receiving the signal including the device number, channel number, and checksum;

means for verifying the checksum to confirm integrity of the signal;

means for determining if the second channel and the channel number match; and

means for determining if the transmitted device number corresponds to the device number of the remote control device.

47. (Original) The system according to claim 46, further comprising locking the channel of the remote control device.

48. (Original) The system according to claim 46, wherein the remote control device is a robot.

49. (Original) The system according to claim 46, wherein the determining of the channel occurs during a robot competition.

50. (Original) The system according to claim 46, wherein each of the device number, channel number, and checksum are transmitted in a single data packet.

51. (Original) The system according to claim 46, further comprising selecting a different

channel if the second channel and channel number do not match.

52. (Original) A system for verifying data integrity communicated between an operator interface and a remote control device, the operator interface and remote control device having associated device numbers, said method comprising:

means for communicating a signal on a channel between the operator interface and the remote control device, the signal including a device number, channel number, and checksum;

means for receiving the signal including the device number, channel number, and checksum;

means for verifying the checksum to confirm integrity of the signal;

means for determining if the channel and the channel number match; and

means for determining if the transmitted device number corresponds to the device number of the remote control device.

53. (Original) The system according to claim 52, further comprising:

means for determining that data integrity is invalid; and

means for utilizing, by the remote control device, a last set of valid data.

54. (Original) The method according to claim 52, further comprising:

determining that data integrity is invalid; and

disabling the remote control device.

55. (Original) The system according to claim 52, wherein the remote control device is a robot.

56. (Original) The system according to claim 52, wherein the determining of the channel occurs during a robot competition.

57. (Original) The system according to claim 52, wherein each of the device number, channel number, and checksum are transmitted in a single data packet.

Claims 58-76 (Canceled)

77. (Original) A method for providing safety at a robot competition, said method comprising:  
commencing the robot competition; and  
providing a remote disabling mechanism operable to selectively disable at least one robot independent of a person operating the at least one robot.

78. (Original) The method according to claim 77, wherein the selective disable includes disengaging power to the at least one robot.

79. (Original) The method according to claim 77, wherein the selective disable includes disabling control signals on the at least one robot.

80. (Original) The method according to claim 77, wherein the remote disabling mechanism is an emergency stop button being readily accessible and operable to disable all robots in a local vicinity of the emergency stop button.

81. (Original) The method according to claim 80, wherein the local vicinity is within approximately 500 feet of the emergency stop button.

82. (Original) A system for providing safety at a robot competition, said system comprising:  
means for selectively disabling at least one robot independent of a person operating the at least one robot; and  
means for disabling the at least one robot.

83. (Original) The system according to claim 82, wherein the selective disable includes disengaging power to the at least one robot.

84. (Original) The system according to claim 82, wherein the selective disable includes disabling control signals on the at least one robot.

85. (Original) The system according to claim 82, wherein the disabling occurs for all robots in a local vicinity of the emergency stop button.

86. (Original) The system according to claim 85, wherein the local vicinity is within approximately 500 feet of the emergency stop button.

87. (Original) A system for providing safety at a robot competition, said system comprising:  
a device operable to selectively disable at least one robot independent of a person  
operating the at least one robot;  
at least one first radio in communication with said device;  
a second radio, coupled to a robot and in communication with the at least one first radio,  
the second radio operable to receive a signal for disabling the robot; and  
a device operable to disable the robot.

88. (Original) The system according to claim 87, wherein the selective disable includes disengaging power to the at least one robot.

89. (Original) The system according to claim 87, wherein the selective disable includes disabling control signals on the at least one robot.

90. (Original) The system according to claim 87, wherein the remote disabling mechanism is an emergency stop button being readily accessible and operable to disable all robots in a local vicinity of the emergency stop button.

91. (Original) The system according to claim 90, wherein the local vicinity is within approximately 500 feet.